



The Leeds Branch

NEWSLETTER December 1997

Secretary- Alistair Mason Tel. 01423 560684

Dear Dancers

Welcome to the December issue of the RSCDS Leeds Branch Newsletter.

On behalf of the branch I would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Can I apologise for any spelling mistakes etc and the reduced standard of this newsletter this is due to work commitments.

If may be, you have a bit of spare time, I would like to hear from you with news, views, questions etc..... please contact me Catherine Livsey, 6 Woodlands Avenue, Lepton, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire HD8 0HZ. Tel 01484 452270 day or 01484 306637 evenings & weekends.

Catherine Livsey - Editor

A Message from your Membership Secretary

Firstly, can I thank all of you who returned completed membership forms promptly at the beginning of the season. This greatly helped me bring the membership records under control. Some Life and Long-Term members have not returned forms; whilst we have some details from the past for you, a completed form does help me ensure that records are up-to-date and get the publications out to you.

It has been a very steep learning curve in this, my first year as your Membership Secretary but it should have eased now. Please contact me with any membership query rather than via others; I'm at most months' dances or you can telephone (01423 872686).

Again, sorry for the confusion over Society publications. "Leaflet -32" is A5 instead of A4, whilst the Bulletin has gone from A5 to A4! I learnt of these changes when the postman delivered the parcels! Special apologies to those of you who have your publications posted. The membership form held the latest information available when we sent them out. So the postage was too high for "Leaflet -32" and the envelope for the Bulletin was too small (hence your envelope sellotaped onto a larger envelope).

Malcolm Frost.

BRANCH SOCIAL EVENINGS

Sat 17th January 1998 - 7.30pm
SOCIAL DANCE - West Park CDC
Music: Colin Dewar (solo)
 MC's - Alan & Susan Carr

Programme

J32	Happy Meeting	Book 29
R32	West's Hornpipe	RSCDS 5' 65
S32	John McAlpin	Foss/Galloway
J 32	Tribute to the Borders	RSCDS L/Let
R32	Inverneill House	Book 35
S32	Cape Town Wedding	Book 39
J32	Jubilee Jig	RSCDS L/Let
R464	Eightsome Reel	Book 2
J32	Roaring Jelly	Foss/Glendarroch
R40	Ladies of Dunse	Book 26
S32	Lord Elgin's Reel	Book 26
J32	Starry Eyed Lassie	Book 23
R32	Summer Wooing	Book 38
S32	The Minister on the Loch	Goldring
J32	MacLeod's Fancy	Book 33
R32	Reel of the 51st Division	Book 13
<i>Extras</i>		
R24	Triumph	Book 1
J32	Postie's Jig	Clowes/Ormskirk
S32	Balmoral Strathspey	Book 22
J32	C'est L'Amour	Book 34

Sat 21st February 1998 - 7.30pm
SOCIAL DANCE - West Park CDC
Music: George Meikle (solo)
 MC - Alec Green

Programme

J32	Wild Geese	Book 24
R32	Reel of 51st Division	Book 13
S32	Gang the Same Gate	Book 36
J32	Postie's Jig	Clowes/Ormskirk
R40	The Highland Rambler	Leeds 25th
S32	Argyll Strathspey	Book 35
J32	The Luckenbooth Brooch	RSCDS L/Let
R32	Black Mountain Reel	Haynes/Glendarroch
J32	Machine Without Horses	Book 12
S32	Drumelzier	RSCDS L/Let
R32	Angus MacLeod	RSCDS L/Let
J32	Quarries' Jig	Book 36
S32	Cape Town Wedding	Book 39
R32	Cramond Bridge	London Jubilee
J32	Muirland Willie	Book 21
R32	John of Bon Accord	Book 33
<i>Extras</i>		
J32	Happy Meeting	Book 29
S80	The Robertson Rant	Book 39
R32	The Sailor	Book 24
R32	Reel of the Royal Scots	RSCDS L/Let

35th Birthday Dance

The 35th birthday of the Leeds Branch was celebrated with a dance at West Park on 15 November.

We managed to locate five of us there whom had been members of the Branch since its inauguration (see photo). There was a great atmosphere at West Park and the hall was almost full to overflowing. We welcomed many visitors as well as members.

The atmosphere was really special - helped by excellent music from the David Cunningham Band, a very danceable programme from Derek Kendall and last but not least, the cake made for the celebrations by Yvonne Tredgett. Many thanks to the committee for organising this enjoyable event.

Audrey Hincliffe



Avis, Brenda, Alec, Audrey, Mrs Clark
Original Branch members at the 35th Celebration Dance.

If there were any other original members present please can they contact Brenda.

Leeds 35th Anniversary Dance Book

A few members have now sent in contributions to the proposed Branch 35th Anniversary Book but there is still room for more.

Please put your thinking caps on and devise that dance that you have had in mind for years yet never found the courage to put pen to paper.

Please send music for the dance or suggest A Traditional tune (but do send us a copy).

The branch may also produce a music cassette to accompany the book.

Dances are to be submitted, by 31st December please, to:

Gerry Yates, 12 Heath Avenue, Manor Heath Road, Halifax, HX3 0EA (tel 01422 360595 for any further information or guidance) or to any Committee member.

Gerry Yates

Bobby Crowe Presentation

Leeds and Doncaster Branches decided to show their appreciation of Bobby Crowe's music and present him with a cheque and framed print of Kilnsey Crag by Yorkshire artist, Nancy Dyson. On the morning of the Branch dance Agnes & Bobby were taken to see the Crag (and were duly impressed).

Bobby Crowe is a very special musician. He has played all over the Country with his own band and, for many years, played with the Olympians the resident band at Summer School.

We miss his playing now that he has retired but we still have many fine recordings he made for the Society.



Bobby was prepared to take trouble to produce sets of tunes which matched and did a lot of research to find suitable music. His playing was at the service of the dancers and like all great players, it was a privilege to be on the dance floor when he was on the platform.

Doncaster & Leeds Branches were delighted that Bobby was recently awarded the Society's scroll for his service to Scottish Country Dancing. He is the first professional musician to receive this honour.

Roy Goldring

RSCDS Leeds Branch Basic Day School

It was a cold and wet November morning when we arrived for a day's class with Alice Murphy. A welcoming hot cuppa eased us in followed by gentle warming-up exercises.

With great music from Ian Slater, Alice took us "Far up the Glen via Sauchie Haugh" and on to the "Bankside where we stopped for a hearty lunch of kipper quiche, salmon and many other delights prepared by Brenda Burnell and cheerfully served by a wonderful team of ladies.

After lunch, Alice took us through our paces with a few more dances and a workout with the "Duke of Atholl's Reel."

The day was enjoyed by everybody and we look forward to another follow-up class with Alice.

Soe

RSCDS 75th Anniversary



As we approach the 75th Celebration year of the Society in 1988, I thought it would be appropriate to pass on a brief history of the Society. I apologise to all those who have taken their Prelim and Teacher's Certificate but hopefully one or two personal anecdotes will make more interesting reading.



Anyone who had the privileged of hearing Miss Milligan speak about the Scottish Country Dance Society will hear her voice saying "In 1923 when Mrs Stewart and I founded the Society..." So it was these two ladies who called a meeting in Glasgow and our Society was born on November 26th 1923. Very quickly Edinburgh follow suit and formed their own Branch. The first exams for teachers were held two years later to establish standards. More Scottish Branches were formed and in 1927 the first Summer School was held for one week in University Hall, St Andrews. This was a success and gradually grew until the four weeks we know today was introduced after the war, In that same year the first affiliated group was formed in Hong Kong. I was told this summer it was started so that young men from this country had something to do where they could meet nice young ladies and not be tempted by the 'not-so-nice' activities available to fit and active young men elsewhere!

By 1930 the number of Branches had grown to 16 including London (the first Branch outside Scotland) and the membership was over 1,000.

Dance books were published initially every year but later every two years. In 1929 when book 6 was ready for publication, the Society decided to do their own publishing. Paterson's Publications, who were very helpful in the early years, retained the copyright of books 1-5 until fairly recently when the Society were able to absorb them in with all their other books. These early books were not available as subscription copies. The Society continued to produce books, leaflets and give help wherever they could during the war. The Reel of the 51st Division was the only modern dance published by the Society and appeared in the Victory Book.

In 1957 Headquarters was bought. Miss Hadden was the secretary then. She had previously worked from home - I still have a hand written letter from her! Things have gradually improved and now we have offices making full use of modern technology, with a full time Secretary and staff.

Mrs Mary Isdal MacNab came to Summer School in the 1950s bringing with her the dances she collected in Canada. These were published in leaflet form and brought us more complicated set dances. Again if you were ever taught these dances by Miss Milligan you will remember her 'and wait for pam!! This was to make us remember to wait for the chord at the end of the dance often holding right hands with partners. Some of us still forget 'to wait for pam' nowadays and are making our way off the dance floor before the band has finished their last chord.

Princess Elizabeth became our Patron in 1947 of the then Scottish

Country Dance Society. The title Royal was bestowed by King George VI in 1952 just before his death. I remember this time well because I was about to go to my very first Scottish dance at Felton Lane London. Three of us were to go and we had hand written our own crib sheets (no such things were given except at the 'big -Balls when they often had a walk through prior to the Ball). We were very excited. As a mark of respect the dance was cancelled and we had to wait a little longer to go to a real dance. By 1950 the Society was becoming international when Boston, USA and Cape Town, South Africa formed Branches. More were soon established in Canada, Australia, Kenya and the Netherlands. Since then membership has grown to 23,000 with 94 UK Branches, 73 Overseas ones and many more Affiliated Groups both home and abroad.

The running of the Society has now become more formalised. The Executive Council still meets twice a year where every Branch



can send a representative. The standing committees are elected annually and deal with much of the detail of the running of the Society. The Finance, Examinations, Publications and Research, Summer School committees report back to the Executive Council. So does the General Purposes committee who deal with all other aspects of the Society's work. The Executive in turn take their proposals to the AGM held in November each year.

Over the last twenty years the Society has gradually adapted to prepare itself to go into the next century. A new Manual has replaced 'Won't you Join the Dance', nearly all the Society books 1-39 are now recorded and videos are available to show the dances in the latest books. Books of modern dances have been published as well as traditional ones. The aims of the Society have been updated. Summer and Winter Schools are held all over the world with guest teachers from the UK. We have a new logo (whether we like it or not) to take us through the 75th year of the Society.

I'm sure Miss Milligan and Mrs Stewart too would love to see how the Society has grown and to see how their standards set in 1923 are still maintained to-day. A merry Christmas and happy dancing in 1988.

Brenda Burnell

Going Over Seas -Oct 97

During my stay here in Southern California I have been able to attend, teach and watch classes for both Scottish country and highland dancing. I have seen dancers who are just starting as well as those of many years' experience. How does it all compare with dancing back in Leeds?

The first thing that is apparent is how the dancers appear at classes. None of this arriving with two jumpers and jeans or long trousers shivering until the class starts. Here dancers arrive clutching their bottles of water and wearing light clothing. Most of the men wear shorts. Footwear, too, is very different. Some women wear the more flattering ballet shoes, but mostly it's ghillies and some of them in rather alarming colours!

Having arrived at the classes and checked that the music box is working correctly, there starts a warm up. This may be the wrong name because I'm sure dancers here are warm when they arrive, but that's what it is called. The exercises they do to "warm up" make my knees just ache to watch! However, the class format proceeds pretty much the same as at home. Step practice (where teachers are lucky enough to be able to do some) is followed by formations and dances. This part of the class is interrupted by frequent drinks from the water bottles as the dancers begin to drip. At home we are just beginning to peel off the first jumpers and the toes are beginning to tingle as they come to life again. By break time when we satisfy ourselves with a welcome drink (warm at some classes) and put back on our second jumpers, here they have eats and drinks supplied by members of the class in rotation. The chatter is the same and break almost always exceeds the allotted time, but it adds greatly to the social side of dancing in any class. The classes continue through to finishing time. The dances taught are usually from forthcoming programmes whichever side of the Atlantic your class happens to be, everyone leaves their class feeling invigorated and much happier than when they arrived. Worries are quickly forgotten wherever you dance.

The demand for demonstrations is much greater here and the teams or individuals are kept very busy at weekends. The same problems are obvious in both Los Angeles and Leeds. There is a lack of men for demonstrations and very few young dancers in the classes and at dances. I think Leeds may have more of the later who are now appearing at our dances. I wish the same could happen here. We are lucky having a good children's class and a University group to bring in younger dancers.

Let's Celebrate

On Friday November 27th 97 the children's class took part in "Let's Celebrate" with an evening of dance.

Dancers were encouraged to bring a friend and numbers increased a little. This was part of the Young Scottish Dancers Association which has been formed to encourage new younger members into the Society. We are lucky in Leeds to have a good number of younger dancers now attending our dances - it does make a difference to the atmosphere.

After a misunderstanding about picking up Mrs Findlay (a pianist) on Friday, Barbara Caldicott organised an interesting evening of simple dances. Everyone enjoyed themselves and maybe we shall see some of the new people back at class.

Brenda Burnell

I have been able to attend a dance run by the for Southern California Branches at the beginning of the season. It had similarities with our own Branch Dances, but there were other quite striking differences. The programme itself had less RSCDS dances than we do at home, but you don't have to do your homework quite so conscientiously here. You are given a crib sheet just as we are, but if you haven't time to read it there is a verbal recap before EVERY dance. It does pay to have a vague idea of the dances before taking the floor as I learnt to my cost! Sets were made up almost immediately the previous dance had finished, but I understand that normally is not so. During the dance there were three different MC's; maybe this is because they have to recap all the dances. I think I prefer having one MC who chooses his programme (only half coming from our Branch list). It gives us greater variety in our programmes. The refreshments are in the form of a faith supper and taken during the first interval. They have a second interval for drinks and helping to eat up, which does nothing for slowly stiffening legs and feet, but overall it was just as enjoyable as our own Branch dances.

There are lots of things in favour of dancing here, but I think in Yorkshire we can enjoy something never possible in a warm climate. We arrive at a dance or class particularly in the winter feeling cold and a bit down, but after half an hour the best form of central heating has taken over and you could never experience that here!

Darlington's Annual Appreciation Day



22nd November 1997.

8 young dancers from Brenda's Friday Class travelled with me to this event, which I have been attending every year since 1989. The location of the festival: Longfield School Darlington. The afternoon is a mixed programme of general dancing and demonstrations, and as usual Terry was the MC for the afternoon.

This year we demonstrated 4 dances - Lucy Campbell, Miarrit Man's Favourite, Celtic Brooch and the Bonnie Dundee Trio. The first two dances were to be adjudicated by Ian McKenzie. The Celtic Brooch and the Bonnie Dundee Trio were added extras, thrown in for fun! To make it interesting Bonnie Dundee Trio was actually danced by four people.

As always the afternoon was enjoyed by all that went. Thanks must go to Brenda Burnell our teacher and Barbara Caldicott for making it possible for us to go.

Jennifer Edmonson.

CLASSES

Fees

£1.50 per class,
Advanced class £2.00
(due to class having live music.)

General

Tuesdays, 7.45 - 9.45pm

Adel Methodist Church Hall, Adel, Leeds 16
Commencing 6th January 98- 7th April 98
Teachers: Alan & Susan Carr

Advanced

Tuesdays, 7.45 - 9.45pm

Mechanics Institute - Corner of
Blackett St & Thornhill St, Calverley,
Leeds. On street parking.
10th, 17th February 98
at Queen's Hall Suite, Pudsey,
Commencing 13th January 98- 31st March 98
Teacher: Avis Harrison

General

Thursdays, 7.45 - 9.45pm

Brackenwood Community Centre,
New Building, Lidgett Lane, Leeds 8
On-going
There is even a Class on 1st January 98.
Teacher: Brenda Burnell

Children

Fridays 7.15 - 8.45pm

Hawkswood Wood Primary School,
Broadway, Leeds 5
Commencing 9th January 98
Teachers: Brenda Burnell, Elizabeth Yates
& Barbara Caldicott

Intermediate Social Class

This class will no longer take place

Thanks

Thanks to Derek Kendall for taking this class and giving great encouragement to intermediate dancers. Once again thank you for your dedication to this class, dancing and the branch.

Branch Socials

Fridays 7.45 - 9.45pm

at St Columba's UR Church Hall,
Headingley, Leeds

9th January 1998, 6th February 1998,
6th March 1998, 1st May 1998
5th June 1998

DIARY DATES TO NOTE

17th January 1998 - SOCIAL DANCE - 7.30pm West Park CDC to the Music of Colin Dewar (Solo). Just turn up and enjoy a social evening of dancing. The dance is open to everyone, you don't even have to be a member of the RSCDS. Of course if you are you get in at a reduced cost.

21st February 1998 - SOCIAL DANCE - 7.30pm West Park CDC to the Music of George Meikle (Solo) Once again open to all. Just turn up and dance!

14th March 1998 - Basic Day School, St Mary's, Hawkswood Ave, Leeds 5. Teacher Peter Clark, music Ian Slater.

21st March 1998 - Children's Festival, 2pm West Park, music Jim Berry Band.
Social Dance West Park, music Jim Berry Band

3-5th April 1998 Weekend School, Scarborough, teacher Alison Russell

REMEMBER 18th April 1998 - Yorkshire's RSCDS 75TH ANNIVERSARY BALL at Doncaster Dome, music by Muriel Johnstone's Band. Be there and be seen! The event of the year Dress 'as formal as you can manage' Cost of tickets £12 if bought before the end of January, (£13 thereafter), and that includes supper. Students can go for £8.00 and spectators for £6.00. Ring 01302 851174, (Yvonne Tredgett) for more information and to reserve your tickets. See you all at the ball!

9th May 1998 Highland Workshop, St Mary's, Hawkswood Ave, Leeds 5. Teacher Catherine Livsey

A Reel Night to Remember

Preparations are now well under way for the Ball on 18 April 1998 in Doncaster, celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the RSCDS. The committee are considering arranging transport for the event if enough interest is shown. As the pick up point is likely to be in a central venue, concern has been expressed about the provision of parking in Leeds and the security aspect.

Could anyone attending the event please let Yvonne Tredgett know by the 31st January if they require transport. Tickets are also available from Yvonne Tredgett 17 Aviemore Road, Warmsworth, Doncaster, S. Yorks DN4 9ND. Tel 01302 851174. at £12 before the end of January, £13 thereafter.

Royston Millmore

It is with great sadness that I tell you of the death of Royston Millmore after a short illness. He was a familiar figure at many of our dances. He valued Scottish Dancing friendships and was always ready to extol the virtues of Scottish Dancing. Among his interests were writing, classical music, reading and theatre. He wrote a humorous article in the "Wool Record" for 40 years. He was greatly respected and admired by wool men in Bradford. His books "Brief Life of the Brontes" and "Heatwave in Berlin" have been published. Alex Green is going to miss Royston's contributions of interesting anecdotes that sometimes appeared in the Club Newsletter.

Royston was above all a humanist, who thought that life was a gift to be treasured and nurtured. He was a clear original thinker who accepted tradition and challenged convention.

Many people appreciated his advice on difficult matters.

Royston was a dear friend, as well as a dancing partner, a wise and witty friend, who will be remembered with great affection.

Our thoughts are with his wife Ann and their sons Paul & Martin.

Barbara Caldicott.